

April 10, 2015

Testimony of Theresa Menard

Re: Governor's Message No. 839, Theresa Menard

Governor's Nominee

Person Possessing Scientific Qualifications as

Evidence by an Academic Degree in Zoology

Legacy Land Conservation Commission

Expiration Date: June 30, 2017

Dear Senator Laura Thielen,

Thank you for considering me to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Below are my answers to your questions.

- (1) **Why do you wish to be a member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission?** I was encouraged to apply to serve on this commission by outgoing commission member Joan Canfield. I am so glad I followed her advice because serving on the commission as an interim appointee in 2014 was a career highlight. I am fortunate and happy to have played a supporting role in the awarding of state funding to protect land that possesses unique and rare valuable resources. I am honored to be nominated by Governor Ige for a full term on the LLCC. I want to continue to serve the people of Hawai'i by using the skills and talents I have developed as a conservation professional in order to make sure the State's money is spent wisely. In particular, what I offer the LLCC is my ability to use different geospatial datasets (e.g. tax map keys, zoning, native ecosystem coverage, etc.) to evaluate different parcels of land for the commission's desired criteria. Working at The Nature Conservancy, I am experienced in ranking and prioritizing different sites across Hawai'i to assist in conservation efforts. This is very similar to what the LLCC does when it applies its own ranking criteria (pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes, 173A) to judge which applicants are most deserving of the Legacy Land Conservation Funds.
- (2) **How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission?** The LLCC advises the Board of Land and Natural Resources on projects proposed for funding under the Legacy Land Conservation Program. I will be representing Science and Kaua'i on the LLCC. With my background in science, I feel one of my duties on the commission is to evaluate applicants' claims about the scientific value

of their projects, e.g. with regard to the presence of endangered flora and fauna, the quality of the wildlife habitat, and the level of watershed protection, etc. One responsibility is to make sure that applicants have submitted complete application packages. Another is to make sure I follow State ethics laws (including timely disclosure of financial information) and avoid conflicts of interests. In fact, as an interim commissioner I have already recused myself on the voting for two Molokai projects because of my husband's oversight of the East Molokai Watershed Partnership. Moreover, as a commissioner, I am sworn to uphold the State Constitution.

- (3) **What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?** My goal is to make sure that the most qualified projects are the ones that receive the Legacy Land Conservation Funds. I am aware that some projects that receive Legacy funding ultimately turn down the money for different reasons. For instance, sometimes matching funds don't come through or an agency or organization decides it cannot hold a conservation easement. When this happens, it means that another deserving project might not have received full funding, or receives perhaps no funding. I hope to make sure this happens as little as possible. Another thing I hope to accomplish is to work with the LLCC coordinator (Molly Schmidt) to develop a web map showing the current LLCC sites with links to project information, which would be viewable on the Legacy Land Conservation Program website.
- (4) **Is there any other information regarding your experience and background that you believe should be considered by the committee?** The Legacy Land Conservation Program provides funding for lands that includes conservation easements, so I think it is worth noting that while working at The Nature Conservancy I have helped draft and develop conservation easements. Additionally, I have some familiarity with the state contracting process as I helped put together contracts for The Nature Conservancy's projects enrolled in the State's Natural Area Partnership Program.

Sincerely,

Theresa Cabrera Menard



Theresa Cabrera Menard



Objective

To serve as a commissioner on the State of Hawai'i's Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Qualifications

What I offer the LLCC is my ability to use different geospatial datasets (e.g. tax map keys, zoning, native ecosystem coverage, etc.) to evaluate parcels of land for desired criteria. I have experience in ranking and prioritizing different sites across Hawai'i to assist conservation efforts.

Work History

2006 to 2014, **Geographic Information Systems Specialist**, The Nature Conservancy.

Manage a collection of high resolution imagery of native forests in Hawai'i. Analyze biological datasets, e.g. native ecosystem extent, pig movements, mongoose populations, herbicide amounts, and weed distributions. Produce maps, e.g. for land acquisition, for the media, and to demonstrate the effectiveness of on-the-ground conservation activities.

2003 to 2006, **Conservation Planner**, The Nature Conservancy.

Co-prepared an ecoregional assessment of biodiversity conservation for the Hawaiian High Islands (<http://www.hawaiiecoregionplan.info/home.html>). Collected and organized data on the biology of the Hawaiian islands. Made maps of ecosystems and conservation areas. Developed conservation area plans for Kaua'i, East Maui, and East Moloka'i.

2002 to 2003, **Landscape Conservation Coordinator**, The Nature Conservancy.

Assisted with the reporting and renewal requirements for the seven Conservancy preserves enrolled in the State's Natural Area Partnership Program.

Education

2001, Master of Science in Zoology, with specialization in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa.

1988, Bachelor of Science in Biology, with specialization in Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution, University of California, San Diego (Revelle College)

Publications

Menard, Theresa. 2001. *Activity Patterns of the Hawaiian Hoary Bat (Lasiurus cinereus semotus) in Relation to Reproductive Time Periods*. Masters thesis. University of Hawai'i, Mānoa. Online at: http://www.openthesis.org/document/view/601130_0.pdf.

Coste, Marion, Pearl Maxner, and Theresa Menard. 2005. *The Hawaiian Bat, 'Ōpe`ape`a*. University of Hawai'i Press. (A children's book.)

Analyses and Presentations

Menard, Theresa, *et al.* 2014. *Geospatial Analysis of Herbicide Application Amounts at The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i*. Poster presentation. Hawai'i Conservation Conference. Honolulu. Abstract online on page 110 of:

http://www.hawaiiconservation.org/images/uploads/conference/2014_HCC_Abstract_Book_FINAL_sm.pdf.

Menard, Theresa, *et al.* 2013. *Kauai Mongoose: Can We Eradicate Them?* Oral Presentation. Hawaii Conservation Conference. Honolulu. Online at: <http://vimeo.com/channels/657529/page:7>.

Menard, Theresa and Jason Sumiye. 2009. *Preliminary Results from the First GPS Telemetry Study of Pigs on Molokai*. Poster Presentation. Hawaii Conservation Conference. Honolulu. Abstract online on page 68 of:

<http://www.hawaiiconservation.org/images/uploads/conference/2009hccabstractbookfinal2.pdf>.

Menard, Theresa, *et al.* 2006. *Tracking Ungulate Control Projects Across the Main Hawaiian Islands*. Oral Presentation. Hawaii Conservation Conference. Honolulu.

Computer Skills

ArcGIS (mapping), Microsoft Office, Vortex Population Modeling

References

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